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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Free territory of Trieste

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SUBJECT Yugoslav Personnel Changes and Commercial Activity in the Free Territory

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.



1. Preparations are being made for extensive changes in personnel among Yugoslav Government economists and finance officials in Zone A and, to a lesser degree, in Zone B.
2. All Yugoslav firms in Trieste are scheduled to come under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Foreign Commerce in Belgrade. The head of the Yugoslav Economic Delegation in Trieste, Nikola Agic, will act as the representative of the Ministry of Foreign Commerce and will be in charge, directing all firms through Mrio Kocijancic. These firms were previously the property of the Central Committee of the pro-Tito (Babic) Communist Party of Trieste, and Branko Babic and Janez Pretnar personally intervened with the Yugoslav Government whenever such intervention was required.
3. Darko Hreljanovic, former head of the Yugoslav Economic Delegation in Trieste, is currently employed in the Ministry of Foreign Commerce in Belgrade. For some time, a bitter struggle existed between the Babic Party Central Committee, as represented by Janez Pretnar, and Darko Hreljanovic. In this dispute, Pretnar assumed the position that all Yugoslav firms should remain the property of the Babic Party Central Committee, while Hreljanovic claimed that they should be the property of the Yugoslav State inasmuch as they were organized with Yugoslav governmental funds. As a result of this dispute, Pretnar was transferred to Ljubljana. This entire move is explained by the fact that the Babic Party Central Committee has lost all political authority in Trieste.
4. Yugoslav intervention to save the Istituto Finanziario, via della Geppa, Trieste, has been unsuccessful to date and has cost some forty million lire.

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Next Review Date: 2008

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